



END OF SESSION — HF 517 — WEAPONS

Description: [House File 517](#) makes several changes to current weapons laws. The major changes include the following:

- States that possession or carrying of a dangerous weapon while under the influence is a serious misdemeanor, unless the person is in their own dwelling, place of business, or on land the person owns or the possession is during an act of justified self-defense or defense of another.
- Allows that a person charged with failure to produce a permit to carry a weapon (a simple misdemeanor) can provide proof to the clerk of the district court that they had a valid permit at the time they were charged. This proof must be provided prior to the date of their court appearance, after which the charge will be dismissed by the court and the court will assess the costs of the action against that person.
- Makes changes in what is acceptable for firearm safety training courses to demonstrate knowledge for an initial permit to carry weapons. Changes requirements for firearms training by stating that after the initial permit to carry weapons is issued, no additional firearms training is required.
- Creates a uniform-looking permit to carry weapons, and allows for confidentiality of permit carriers.
- Eliminates the requirement for an annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers, and allows instead for five-year permits.
- Eliminates the age restriction to possess a pistol or revolver if the person previously restricted under prior law is under direct supervision of a parent or guardian and is at least 21 years of age.
- States that if a local government enacts or amends any local ordinance, measure, enactment, rule, resolution, motion, or policy regulating firearms that would contradict legality under State law, and this adversely affects a person, that person may file suit for declaratory and injunctive relief for damages.
- Allows for concealed carry of pistols or firearms in the Capitol building and the grounds surrounding the Capitol building, including parking lots and parking garages.
- Eliminates the emergency power of the Governor to prohibit possession of firearms outside of a home or business during a state of public disorder. Eliminates the ability of the State to suspend the sale of firearms during a disaster emergency. Also states that the emergency powers of the Governor or other State official shall not be used to regulate or seize firearms or ammunition.
- Expands provisions in the existing “stand your ground” law to include that a person may be wrong in the estimation of the danger or force necessary to defend themselves as long as there is a reasonable basis for that belief and the person acts reasonably in the response to that belief. It also states that a person not engaged in illegal activity has no duty to retreat from any place where they are lawfully present before using force to defend themselves.
- States that a person commits a Class D felony if they knowingly purchase firearms or ammunition in violation of Iowa law or federal law, or if they knowingly provide false information with the intent to deceive a firearms dealer or seller.
- Allows that a loaded pistol or revolver may be carried unsecured on a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.
- Exempts target shooting by an owner or tenant of private premises located in the unincorporated area of a county from noise ordinances.
- Prohibits the use of the bond schedule for persons arrested for intimidation with a dangerous weapon in violation of Iowa Code section [708.6](#) or possession of a firearm by a felon in violation of Iowa Code section [724.6](#)(1).

Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact of this Act is estimated to be minimal.

Enactment Date: The Act was approved by the General Assembly on April 6, 2017, and signed by the Governor on April 13, 2017.

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